

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, VE, CU

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE RE CUBA

1. VENEZUELAN OAS AMBASSADOR GARCIA BUSTILLOS EVENING AUG 23 ONCE AGAIN ASSURED JOVA THAT HE WOULD NOT PRESENT VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL TO PERMANENT COUNCIL UNLESS HE WAS ASSURED OF HAVING A MINIMUM OF TWELVE VOTES. HE SAID THAT NEITHER HIS GOVERNMENT NOR HE HIMSELF WISHED TO REPEAT "STERILE DEBATE" IN THE COUNCIL WITH ALL THE DIVISIVE POSSIBILITIES UNLESS THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING THE MORAL VICTORY OF AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY GIVEN BY TWELVE VOTES. WHEN ASKED WHETHER GOV MIGHT MOVE UNILATERALLY TO RECOGNIZE CUBA, GARCIA BUSTILLOS REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A DECISION THAT ONLY PRESIDENT CALDERA COULD TAKE. HE HIMSELF DOUBTED THAT CALDERA WOULD TAKE THIS DECISION AS HE PREFERRED TO HAVE THE "JURIDICAL SUPPORT" GIVEN BY
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SOME SORT OF COUNCIL ACTION. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT

IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT INTERNAL VENEZUELAN POLITICAL REASONS MIGHT FORCE THE PRESIDENT TO OVERCOME HIS JURIDICAL QUALMS AT SOME POINT BETWEEN NOW AND THE ELECTIONS. IN THE MEAN-TIME, HE SAID, VENEZUELA IS CONTINUING ITS POLICY OF FOMENTING INFORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE CUBAN PEOPLE IN THE SPORTS, CULTURAL AND OTHER FIELDS.

2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION AUG 24 COLOMBIA'S NEW OAS AMBASSADOR VALDERRAMA REPEATED THAT GOC WAS SYMPATHETIC TO VENEZUELA'S AIMS AND WAS CERTAINLY NOT OPPOSED TO GIVING FREEDOM OF ACTION TO LIFT SANCTIONS. IT WAS, HOWEVER, OPPOSED TO ANY MOVE WHICH MIGHT FORCE ALL OAS MEMBERS TO LIFT THEIR SANCTIONS. HE SAID GOC WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH TEXT OF COSTA RICAN PROPOSAL AND HERE AGAIN THEY WERE SYMPATHETIC BUT WISHED TO STUDY TEXT BEFORE FORMING OPINION. JOVA EMPHASIZED TO HIM THE JURIDICAL DEFECTS WHICH COSTA RICAN PROPOSAL ALSO CONTAINED AND REITERATED OUR OPPOSITION ALSO ON POLITICAL GROUNDS TO ANY CHANGE IN SANCTIONS WITHOUT CLEAR INDICATION OF CHANGE IN CUBAN BEHAVIOR. RUSH

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